

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SECTO 04041 01 OF 02 121125Z

ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 NEA-10 EUR-12 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-05 IO-13
ACDA-10 /092 W

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O R 121008Z MAY 77 ZFF-4

FM USDEL SECRETARY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 SECTO 4041

FROM USDEL SECRETARY

STATE FOR S/PRS; DEPT. PASS NSC FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI
AND WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL

USIA FOR IEU; IPS/PE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: SECVISIT: PRESS CONFERENCE ABOARD PLANE LONDON/MADRID

FOLLOWING TRANSCRIPT OF NEWS CONFERENCE BY SECRETARY VANCE
ABOARD THE PLANE WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, BETWEEN LONDON AND MADRID:

Q: COULD YOU TELL US MR. SECRETARY WHAT YOU TOLD MR. ALLON
ABOUT YOUR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ASSAD?

A: I REVIEWED GENERALLY THE SUBJECTS COVERED, (BUT) I DISCUSSED
THE BROADER OVERVIEW THAT WE HAD AS A RESULT OF OUR SERIES
OF MEETINGS WITH THE VARIOUS ARAB LEADERS. I HAD NOT HAD
A CHANCE TO TALK TO MR. ALLON FOR, I GUESS, THESE TWO AND
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PAGE 02 SECTO 04041 01 OF 02 121125Z

A HALF MONTHS SINCE WE WERE LAST THERE, SO I WANTED TO GIVE
HIM THE BROADER PICTURE OF THE GENERAL ARAB THINKING RATHER
THAN GOING INTO SPECIFIC DETAILS OF TALKS WITH ANY ONE LEADER.
I ALSO WANTED TO GET THE LATEST THINKING OF THE ISRAELIS ON THE
MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, AND THEN EXCHANGE VIEWS ON HOW WE MIGHT
PROCEED FROM HERE TO MOVE TOWARD DURING THE NEXT TWO OR THREE
MONTHS. OF COURSE, ISRAELIS HAVE THE PROBLEM OF PUTTING TOGETHER

A GOVERNMENT AFTER THE ELECTIONS, AND NOBODY SEEMS TO KNOW AT THIS POINT EXACTLY HOW LONG THAT WILL TAKE, AND THE ESTIMATES RUN ALL THE WAY FROM AT A MINIMUM THREE WEEKS TO AS MUCH AS A COUPLE OF MONTHS, AND IT'S UNLIKELY THAT ANY PRIME MINISTER WILL BE ABLE TO COME TO THE UNITED STATES TO VISIT WITH THE PRESIDENT UNTIL AFTER THE COALITION IS FORMED.

Q: CAN I FOLLOW UP? WHAT DO YOU THINK THE LATEST ISRAELI THINKING WAS, GIVEN THAT CONTEXT. WHAT HE TOLD YOU ABOUT THE LATEST ISRAELI...

A: I REALLY DON'T WANT TO GO INTO ANY DETAILS ABOUT ANYBODY'S POSITION AT THIS POINT. I THINK IT'S NOT FAIR TO THE PARTIES TO GO IN TO ANY OF THE DETAILS. IT WAS GENERALLY ALONG THE LINES OF WHAT I HAD HEARD BEFORE WHEN I WAS IN ISRAEL EARLIER; THERE ARE NO MAJOR CHANGES ON WHAT I HAVE HEARD THEN.

Q. MR. SECRETARY, WERE YOU ABLE TO TELL MR. ALLON SOMETHING HE DID NOT KNOW BEFORE?

A: WELL, I WAS ABLE TO BRING HIM UP TO DATE WITH WHAT I THOUGHT WERE SOME SIGNS OF MOVEMENT IN SOME OF THE CORE AREAS, AND IN ADDITION TO THAT HE HAD SOME QUESTIONS THAT HE WANTED TO PUT TO ME. BESIDES JUST THE TWO ISSUES WHICH I SPECIFICALLY REFERRED TO AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, HE WANTED TO KNOW WHAT OUR POSITION SPECIFICALLY WAS, WHETHER WE WOULD MEET OUR SECURITY COMMITMENTS TO ISRAEL. I TOLD HIM WE WOULD, AND I THEREFORE SAID THAT TO THE PRESS AFTERWARDS, AND HE RAISED WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 SECTO 04041 01 OF 02 121125Z

ME THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT WE INTENDED TO IMPOSE A SOLUTION ON THE PARTIES AS SOME OF THE NEWSPAPER STORIES HAD SAID AND I TOLD HIM THAT WAS NOT THE CASE SO THAT WE DISCUSSED SOME OF THOSE OTHER ISSUES AS WELL.

Q: THERE'S SOME WIDE DISCREPANCY AT LEAST BETWEEN...ABOUT THE SUGGESTIONS...ESSENTIALLY WHAT SUGGESTIONS HAVE YOU PLANNED?

A. PLAN IS HIS WORD. WE WILL HAVE SUGGESTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE VARIOUS ISSUES AFTER HAVING TALKED TO ALL OF THE PARTIES AND HAVING HEARD THEIR SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS AS TO THE SHAPE OF A SETTLEMENT. IN A SENSE I THINK THERE IS A PROBLEM OF SEMANTICS INVOLVED BUT THE KEY POINT THAT I WANT TO MAKE IS THAT THE ULTIMATE DECISION ON A SETTLEMENT IS GOING TO HAVE TO BE MADE BY THE PARTIES AND THAT'S THE THING THAT I WANT TO GET ACROSS.

Q: DID YOU TELL THE ISRAELIS...(INDISTINCT)

A: AS A MEDIATOR ONE ALWAYS TRIES TO TRY TO BRING THE PARTIES TOGETHER BUT THE ULTIMATE DECISION HAS TO BE THEIR DECISION.

Q: MR. SECRETARY, AFTER THIS MEETING, PRESIDENT CARTER SAID THE SAME...EXACTLY WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "GENERAL CONCEPT?"

A: THE CONCEPT THAT IS PART OF SECURE BORDERS, SOME FORM OF DEMILITARIZATION ON THE BORDERS THAT IS GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE TO THE PARTIES. THAT'S WHAT HE WAS SAYING. AND THAT I THINK HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT SOME FORM OF ADDITIONAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS SUCH AS THE STATIONING OF UN FORCES OR OTHER THIRD COUNTRY FORCES TO MAKE SURE THAT THE DEMILITARIZED ZONES REMAIN DEMILITARIZED AND TO ACT AS AN IMPEDIMENT TO PEOPLE REACHING THE SECURE BORDERS.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 SECTO 04041 01 OF 02 121125Z

Q: (INAUDIBLE) (HOW COORDINATING SALT POLICY WITH PRESIDENT)

A: WELL, WE'VE BEEN COMMUNICATING TO EACH OTHER BY CABLE AND BY SECURE PHONE. I HAVE HAD CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS DURING OUR PERIOD HERE IN LONDON ON SALT SUBJECTS AS WELL AS ON SOME OF THE OTHER TOPICS WHICH WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING AND I WILL

BE OF COURSE DIRECTLY IN TOUCH WHEN WE GET BACK TO THE U.S. WITH THE PRESIDENT, SO THAT WE WILL BE FULLY COORDINATED BY THE TIME I GET BACK TO...

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PAGE 01 SECTO 04041 02 OF 02 121144Z
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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 SECTO 4041

FROM USDEL SECRETARY

STATE FOR S/PRS; DEPT. PASS NSC FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI
AND WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL

USIA FOR IEU; IPS/PE

Q: (INDISTINCT-LONG QUESTION)(WHERE REALLY STAND ON SALT.)

A: WHERE WE STAND ON THIS IS I THINK ALL OF US NOW UNDERSTAND BETTER
THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THE THREE PROPOSALS WHICH I REFERRED TO, I THINK

,
AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE. WE HAVE DISCUSSED WITHOUT ANY
PROPOSALS BEING MADE ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS
ANY WAY OF BRIDGING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE VARIOUS
PROPOSALS. NO CONCLUSIONS HAVE BEEN REACHED ON THE...
I WOULD ASSUME WHEN WE GET TO MOSCOW, OR, WHEN WE GET TO
GENEVA, THERE WILL BE FURTHER DISCUSSION ALONG THOSE LINES. WHAT
SHOULD COME OUT OF IT I SIMPLY DON'T KNOW AT THIS POINT, BUT
AS I SAID AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE ONCE YOU SIT DOWN AND START
TALKING TO EACH OTHER, THEN IT'S ALWAYS POSSIBLE THAT SOME MORE
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 SECTO 04041 02 OF 02 121144Z

COMMON GROUND CAN BE FOUND BETWEEN THE PARTIES THAT WILL LEAD
YOU TOWARD A SETTLEMENT, BUT I DON'T WANT TO PREDICT IN ANY
WAY THAT I THINK ANY SETTLEMENT IS...OR A FRAMEWORK EVEN,
IS GOING TO COME OUT OF THE MEETING, BUT WE WILL BE TALKING
FURTHER AND OUT OF THE THING COMES SOME PROGRESS.

Q: (INAUDIBLE)

A: AT THIS TIME A SETTLEMENT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA, THOUGH NOT
AT THIS POINT, ER, I DON'T WANT TO EVEN INDICATE...LET ME JUST...
DON'T LET ME EXAGGERATE THIS, THERE IS NO MAJOR MOVEMENT AT
THIS POINT, BUT I SEE SOME SIGNS OF MOVEMENT AMONG THE PARTIES,
AND I AM NOT SURE IN MY OWN MIND AT THIS POINT WHETHER IT
WOULD BE HELPFUL TO IDENTIFY THOSE AREAS OR WHETHER IT IS A
LITTLE EARLY TO DO IT, AND I THINK I'LL JUST LET IT SIT THE WAY
IT IS. BUT DON'T OVER-RATE THIS, AS IF ANY BIG AREA OF
MOVEMENT...(INAUDIBLE). LET ME JUST SAY IT IS NOTHING MAJOR
AT THIS POINT, BUT THERE ARE SOME SIGNS...OR NO, LET ME PUT
IT THIS WAY, A BETTER UNDERSTANDING AMONG THE PARTIES OF THE
REQUIREMENTS OF EACH OTHER WITH RESPECT TO KEY ISSUES.

Q: (INAUDIBLE) (WHEN GO TO MIDDLE EAST?)

A: I SIMPLY DON'T KNOW, I STILL EXPECT IT TO BE SOMETIME BEFORE THE END OF JULY. I THINK IT'S UNLIKELY THAT THEY'LL FORM A CABINET BEFORE THE END OF JUNE, WHICH WILL MEAN THE END OF JULY.

Q: ...ANY SIGNS OF A SHIFT OF THE ATTITUDES...

A: NO, I HONESTLY DON'T HAVE ANY SIGNS OF REAL SHIFTS...

Q: (INAUDIBLE)

A: I HAVE HEARD RUMORS TO THAT EFFECT THAT THERE MAY BE SOME MOVEMENT, BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY HARD EVIDENCE OF ANY SUCH MOVEMENT.

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PAGE 03 SECTO 04041 02 OF 02 121144Z

Q: (INAUDIBLE)

A: LET ME SAY THAT MY POSITION, OUR POSITION, REMAINS THE SAME. WE'VE SAID THAT AS LONG AS THE PALESTINIANS REFUSE TO RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL TO EXIST, AND THE RECOGNITION OF 242 AND 238 AS THE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS, THAT WE CAN SEE NO REASON FOR MOVING FROM THE POSITION WHICH WE HAVE HELD ALL ALONG.

Q: (INAUDIBLE)

A: NO, I HAVE NOT TALKED TO HIM ABOUT SEEING ARAFAT.
(LONG PERIOD OF INDISTINCT TALK)

Q: (INAUDIBLE) (SIMULTANEOUS RECOGNITION?)

A: ALL I CAN SAY ON THAT IS THAT THAT IS ONE OF MANY SUGGESTIONS THAT I HAVE HEARD MADE WITH RESPECT TO THAT QUESTION.

Q: (INAUDIBLE- SOMETHING TO DO WITH NEGOTIATIONS)

A: THAT HAS BEEN MENTIONED AS ONE OF A NUMBER OF POSSIBILITIES, BUT NOT AS ONE THEY WERE ESPOUSING AT THIS POINT. THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS THAT THIS PROBLEM MIGHT BE ADDRESSED. ONE OF THEM IS THAT WAY, BUT IT'S ALWAYS DONE IN A LIST OF FOUR OR FIVE DIFFERENT SOLUTIONS, AND ADDED TO THAT THERE ARE SUCH THINGS AS THERE COULD BE ONE DELEGATION, THEY COULD BE ALLOWED IN A JORDANIAN DELEGATION, A LIST OF ITEMS LIKE THAT, SO IT IS NOT BEING SUGGESTED AS...

Q: (VERY GARBLED)... WEST BANK...SEEMINGLY ACCELERATING PACE...

A: OUR POSITION ON THIS IS, WE HAVE EXPRESSED OUR VIEWS ON THAT
IN THE PAST; OUR VIEWS REMAIN UNCHANGED IF THE SUBJECT CAME UP THERE.
THANKS A LOT. VANCE
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PAGE 04 SECTO 04041 02 OF 02 121144Z

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Message Attributes

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